

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SAB-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1868

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, CS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN WHALEN'S VISIT AND REPORTED
PRESS COMMENTS ON CUBA AND PANAMA

USIA FOR ILA

1. OCTOBER 28 MEDIA COVERAGE OF CONGRESSMAN
CHARLES WHALEN'S COMMENTS ON US/LA MATTERS TO PRESS
PREVIOUS DAY CONCENTRATED ON PANAMA AND CUBA. CONGRESSMAN
WHALEN REPORTED TO HAVE DESCRIBED PANAMA CANAL SITUATION
IN TERMS OF U.S. "COLONIALISM" (IN WHICH GOP DESIRES
SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS TERRITORY) AND SAID: "IT SEEMS
FOR NOW THE SENATE WILL NOT RATIFY A NEW TREATY."
WHEN QUESTIONED "WHEN?", CONGRESSMAN'S REPORTED REPLY
WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER 1976, IN ORDER TO AVOID MAKING IT
A CAMPAIGN ISSUE IN U.S. ELECTIONS.

2. RE CUBA, CONGRESSMAN WHALEN WAS QUOTED: "IT IS
EVIDENT THAT THE U.S. HAS MOVED 180 DEGREES IN MATTER
OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. I BELIEVE THAT THOSE RELATIONS
ARE COMING AND SOON." CONGRESSMAN CITED SAN JOSE
OAS MEETING AS STEP IN DIRECTION OF MOVING TOWARD
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. WHEN QUESTIONED
IF CUBA POSITION ON PUERTO RICO MIGHT BE AN OBSTACLE,
CONGRESSMAN WAS QUOTED: "CUBA IS USING PUERTO RICO
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MATTER AS A LEVER." HE REPORTEDLY ADDED: "I TALKED

WITH CASTRO FOR FOUR HOURS FOUR MONTHS AGO AND HE
TOLD ME THAT THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH RESPECT TO
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S."

3. COMMENT: CONGRESSMAN WHALEN REPEATED HIS COMMENTS
ON PANAMA AND CUBA AT AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON SAME DAY. NOT REPORTED WAS UNSCHEDULED
APPEARANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO AT LUNCHEON.
FACIO, IN IMPROMPTU PUBLIC REMARKS, WAS WARM IN HIS
PRAISE FOR THE CONGRESSMAN'S COMMENTS. HE STATED
THAT HE SHARED THEM AND THAT U.S. NEEDS MORE CONGRESSMEN
LIKE CHARLES WHALEN. AFTER LUNCH, CONGRESSMAN CALLED
ON PRESIDENT ODUBER, VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO AND
FOREIGN MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY CHAMBER OFFICIALS AND
CHARGE. HE WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND MADE EXCELLENT
IMPRESSION.
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